

REMARKS

Several corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 1 - 2, 9 - 15, 17, and 19 - 20 have been amended. Claim 18 has been cancelled from the application without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections or amendments, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 17 and 19 - 21 remain in the application.

I. Claim Objection

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action dated October 5, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claim 9 is objected to because of the informality that there are two periods at the end. Appropriate correction has been made herein, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al (U.S. Patent 5,701,482) in view of Douceur et al (U.S. Patent 6,247,061). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent Claims 1, 15, 19, and 20 have been amended herein to more clearly specify determination of a job-specific execution window and a requester-specific execution window. Applicant finds no teaching of these limitations in the cited references. The cited text from col. 8, line 59 - col. 9, line 4 of Harrison discusses transferring task execution from one processor to another (also referred to in Harrison as "task transfer") under certain

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conditions. The cited text from col. 3, lines 15 - 19 of Douceur pertains to determining when a packet can be released to the network.

Applicant's independent Claim 17 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitation from now-cancelled Claim 18. Claim 17 specifies limitations including "determining an interval over which the available job may be performed", and "determining an earliest time in the interval when the available job may be executed for the particular device". Applicant finds no discussion in the references of such an interval, or of determining an earliest time in the interval. In addition, the Office Action fails to cite text dealing with these particular limitations.

With regard to Applicant's independent Claim 21, the Office Action also fails to cite text dealing with the limitations specified therein. In particular, Claim 21 includes limitations of "determining a class from which the request was received" and "using the class to determine an earliest execution time for a requester ...", which Applicant fails to find in the references.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that his independent Claims 1, 15, 17, and 19 - 21 are patentable over the references. Dependent Claims 2 - 14, 16, and 20 are therefore deemed patentable over the references as well. (Furthermore, with regard to the discussion of Harrison's col. 9, lines 2 - 4, presented on p. 4, lines 1 - 4 of the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited text pertains to factors to be considered for moving tasks from one processor to another, and not to the requester-specific execution windows or class membership limitations specified in Applicant's Claims 2 - 9 and 11 - 14.) Accordingly, the

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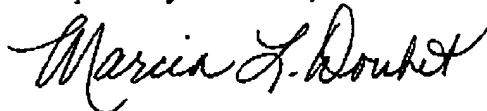
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membership limitations specified in Applicant's Claims 2 - 9 and 11 - 14.) Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejection.

III. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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